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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

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SUBJECT Finow Airfield

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1. About 20 jet aircraft with swept-back wings, one jet plane with a fuselage step, about 15 single-engine, low-wing monoplanes and three biplanes were seen at the Finow (N 53/V 08) airfield between 1 and 2 p.m. on 1 November 1950. (1) The weather was overcast and the visibility was about 800 meters. The jet fighters with swept-back wings were white and had black two-digit numbers on their noses. There was no flying.
2. A greenish-blue jet fighter with fuselage step and probably a multi-seater cockpit was identified from a distance of about 300 meters. A blue-green, single-engine, low-wing monoplane with a two-bladed propeller was seen in a shed from the same distance. Two fuel trucks were at the field. Trucks were standing near the air force quarters.
3. Between noon and 1 p.m. on 9 November, it rained occasionally. The field was occupied by about 20 white jet fighters with swept-back wings, six of them on the eastern edge, and about eight side by side on the northern edge, about 10 greenish, single-engine, low-wing monoplanes on the northern edge, and four biplanes. It could not be determined whether the planes on the northern edge of the field were propeller-driven aircraft or jet planes. The different colors were discerned. There was no flying.
4. Three building blocks in Finow were occupied by Soviet Air Force personnel. About 800 men were quartered in a camp south of the railroad station, about 600 men in a camp west of the railroad station, and about 1,200 men in billets west of Biesenthaler Strasse. (3) Passenger car tank truck and trucks entered and left the field.
5. The radio station consisting of five low masts was still east of Biesenthaler Strasse, in line with the runway. (4) The two wooden cabins previously seen there were removed.
6. On 11 November, the field was occupied by about 40 jet fighters with swept-back wings. Most of the planes, parked on the northern edge of the field, were covered with gray-green tarpaulins. Some planes were parked along Biesenthaler Strasse.

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[redacted] planes were towed to the northern edge of the field by two prime movers. A small bulge, possibly a small aperture, was observed between the air exhaust and the rudder assembly on the jet aircraft. In the cross section, it looked like a small bulge of the fuselage which gradually merged into the fuselage after 25 to 30 cm. (5)

7. Two jet fighters with swept-back wings took off in the afternoon after four or five loud detonations were heard which sounded similar but louder than the backfire of a truck. The planes used about two thirds of the runway while a strong wind blew from the west. Large bulges were seen under, almost at the tips of, the wings of three planes of this type which were covered with tarpaulins. These bulges were possibly extra tanks. (6)
8. A small device which was mounted on a carrying case about 1 meter high, was seen on the eastern edge of the field, between the runway and Biesenthaler Strasse. The upper section of the device was gray-green and cylindrical and, in shape, resembled a steel radio tube. The cylinder head was slightly curved and reinforced by a ring about 4 or 5 cm wide. The lower section of the set was square-shaped. The side of the cube which pointed to the road was open. A dark brown plate with a cutout portion about 10x15 cm and rounded corners was seen inside. Several rows of sockets, about five or six in the horizontal direction and seven to ten in the vertical direction, and four more in the upper left corner were clearly identified on the plate. It was noted that the device was open despite the unpredictable weather. (7)
9. The following three radio stations were seen east of the field, in the extension of the runway:
 - a. A mast six meters high about 200 meters east of Biesenthaler Strasse, at the side of a cantonment building and two sheds. (8)
 - b. A tent and four masts each five meters and arranged in a square about 40 to 50 meters farther to the east. (4)
 - c. A mast eight meters high and two searchlights mounted on a telegraph pole about 300 meters northwest from the intersection of forest sub-areas (Jagen) 180, 181, 214 and 215, at the side of three small temporary buildings. A single field cable led from this radio station toward the east and a four-wire line to an antenna mast on the southeastern perimeter of Finow. More lines led from this antenna mast to the Finow railroad warehouse. A lead-covered, underground cable also ran from this antenna mast in an undetermined direction. (0)
10. A new telephone line was laid from Finowfurt (H 53/Z 98) estate to a semi-underground temporary building, about 500 meters to the east. Construction work was still being done on the temporary building. The radar set with ears, previously seen in the camp between the railroad line and the Finow-Finowfurt road, was still there. (9)

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[] Comments.

- (1) Mig-15s, type 15 jet planes, possible Yak-9s and Yak-11s, and Po-2s respectively. The number of jet aircraft does not agree with the number observed by two other sources on the same day. []

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[] reported a total of about 33 or 34 jet aircraft. However, the total number of jet planes in Finow is believed to be about 70 to 80. The field is occupied by two fighter regiments and a fighter division headquarters.

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- (3) The personnel strength cannot be verified for lack of comparable information by other sources. Since a fighter division headquarters and two fighter regiments with their ground units are stationed at the field, the strength reported is believed possible.
- (4) The presence of a radio station with four masts, presumably a DF station, was previously reported. []
- (5) For sketch of bulge seen on the fuselage of jet aircraft, see Annex 1.
- (6) To date, extra tanks have not been observed on Mig-15s in the Soviet Zone of Germany. It is, however, possible that this aircraft type has extra tanks.
- (7) The device is reported for the first time. Its purpose is not known. For sketch of set, see Annex 2.
- (8) Repeatedly observed at the same location. [] Probably homing beacons. For location sketch of radio stations, see Annex 3.
- (9) The radar set is probably assigned to the fighter division headquarters. It was repeatedly reported to be located in the camp. []

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3 Annexes: Three sketches on ditto.

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